

Florida - 5th District

5 Bill McCollum (R)

Of Altamonte Springs — Elected 1980

Born: July 12, 1944, Brooksville, Fla.

Education: U. of Fla., B.A. 1965, J.D. 1968.

Military Career: Navy, 1969-72; Naval Reserve, 1972 to present.

Occupation: Lawyer.

Family: Wife, Ingrid Seebom; three children.

Religion: Episcopalian.

Political Career: Chairman, Seminole County Republican Executive Committee, 1976-80.

Capitol Office: 1507 Longworth Bldg. 20515; 225-2176.



In Washington: McCollum in his first term represented more people than any other House member — over 880,000 in his fast-growing central Florida territory. Acting as if the population alone imposed a special responsibility, McCollum worked with boy scout-like diligence, and he probably influenced more legislation than any other member of his freshman class.

McCollum's most notable triumph came in September of 1982, when Democrats were trying to push through a \$6.75 billion package of low-interest loans and loan guarantees for small businesses and job training.

The money was included in a bill reauthorizing the Defense Production Act; Democrats said it would strengthen industries that contribute to military preparedness.

Conservatives criticized the money package as a scattershot anti-recession stimulus program. McCollum waged war on it, taking strategy cues from Ed Bethune, the crafty Arkansas Republican. McCollum offered an amendment to the reauthorization bill giving the Treasury Department authority to block the loans and loan guarantees if it determined that they would lead to higher interest rates.

That was a "killer amendment," since Republican officials at the Treasury would certainly decide not to spend the money. When McCollum's proposal passed 173-154, the House Democratic leadership stripped away the \$6.75 billion package and accepted simple reauthorization of the Defense Production Act — a significant defeat.

Though McCollum shares President Reagan's conservative principles, he has made some important departures from the administration line. In the Judiciary Committee, for example, he ignored Reagan's call to abolish

the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) and instead advocated restrictions on the program.

When Judiciary considered Legal Services reauthorization in May 1981, it accepted only three of 24 proposed amendments. One that succeeded (by a 14-13 vote) was McCollum's proposal requiring that local bar groups appoint a majority of the members of boards of directors for local legal aid programs. He said that would keep the LSC "out of the hands of liberal bureaucrats who are more interested in pursuing broad social causes than helping the poor."

During deliberations on the House floor, McCollum won voice-vote approval of another amendment to restrict the use of Legal Services funds for representing illegal aliens. Then he backed renewal of the program itself, one of only 41 Republicans who refused to support efforts to kill the legislation at the last minute.

The influx of refugees to Florida in recent years has led McCollum to take a hard line against illegal aliens. The immigration bill that reached the House floor in 1982 contained a provision granting amnesty for many aliens already in the country illegally. McCollum called that proposal "a slap in the face to the thousands of potential immigrants who have been waiting in line legally" and said its passage would tempt more unauthorized aliens to enter the country.

He tried to delete the amnesty proposal, but failed once in subcommittee and twice in the full Judiciary committee. The immigration bill died in the House at the end of the lame-duck session.

At one point, McCollum had to be restrained from pushing too hard for federal aid to help Florida deal with refugees. In 1982 he worked in Judiciary to attach a three-year, 100 percent reimbursement plan to the bill re-

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Florida 5

McCollum's old 5th district just about doubled in population during the 1970s, and at the end of the decade it was more than 350,000 over the ideal size. It was divided up to form the core of three separate districts.

The part that McCollum kept contains all of downtown Orlando and the city's northern suburbs in Orange and southern Seminole counties. The tourism industry in this area boomed overnight with the 1971 opening of Disney World, 15 miles south of Orlando. Another boost came with the opening in 1982 of Disney's EPCOT Center, an area with futuristic pavilions amounting to a permanent World's Fair.

Thousands of workers have been drawn to the area's numerous high-technology employers, many of whom went into business during the 1960s race to the moon. Orlando is the closest major city to the Kennedy Space Center in Titusville. Production of missiles, aircraft control systems, computer software, lasers and other sophisticated equipment provide a steady living for aerospace and defense contractors such as Martin Marietta.

Growth has brought its share of prob-

North Central — Orlando And Northern Suburbs

lems to the district. Orlando sewage threatens the health of Lake Tohopekaliga to the south, and paying for capital improvements to control the problem is costly. Demand for water has increased dramatically — lowering of the water table was partly to blame for the massive sinkhole that opened up in Winter Park in 1981, swallowing buildings, cars and a swimming pool.

The affluent Orange County communities of Winter Park and Maitland are home to Orlando's older, established elite, which provides strong support for Republican candidates. Many of the upper-level executives new to the area settle to the north in Seminole County, an area that gave two-thirds of its 1980 presidential vote to Ronald Reagan. Most of the district's Democratic voters come out of working-class areas within the city of Orlando.

Population: 513,005. White 420,215 (82%), Black 84,264 (16%), Asian and Pacific Islander 3,133 (1%). Spanish origin 15,041 (3%). 18 and over 373,987 (73%), 65 and over 61,889 (12%). Median age: 31.

authorizing refugee assistance programs. The plan initially was approved, but Judiciary Chairman Peter W. Rodino and Justice Department officials said its inclusion would doom reauthorization. Their lobbying persuaded McCollum and two other Republicans to abandon the reimbursement plan, and it was rejected in a second committee vote.

On the Banking Committee, McCollum successfully offered two amendments narrowing the scope of a 1981 bill to help the ailing savings and loan industry. His proposals were meant to allay fears that the legislation was too sweeping and would lead to wholesale takeovers of small banks by larger competitors.

McCollum came to Congress calling for a limit on members' tenure, and he has proposed legislation to achieve that. But his conviction seems to be wavering. At the close of his first year in the House, McCollum said, "I have never restricted myself to the amount of time I am going to serve."

At Home: Spurred by Republican Rep. Richard Kelly's near defeat in 1978, McCollum

was already campaigning for the 5th District GOP nomination in 1980 when it was reported in early February that the FBI had snared Kelly in its Abscam investigation.

McCollum, a former Seminole County GOP chairman making his first bid for public office, used his early start to develop a stronger organization than either Kelly or state Sen. Vince Fectel, who joined the field in April. Since there were few issue differences among the three men, image rather than substance dominated the campaign. McCollum portrayed himself as a morally upstanding family man qualified to fill the "leadership vacuum" in the district.

McCollum received 43 percent of the primary vote. He ran first in Seminole County and in the Orange County suburbs of Orlando, and also carried Pasco and Pinellas counties, GOP strongholds on the west coast. Fectel trailed McCollum by 2,210 votes and Kelly ran a poor third. In the runoff, McCollum again brought his organizational strength to bear, carrying six of the district's eight counties and winning

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nomination with 54 percent.

Democrats chose lawyer David Best, who two years earlier had polled 49 percent against Kelly. McCollum, clearly more conservative than Best, caught the district's prevailing mood and was elected with 56 percent.

In 1982 McCollum easily defeated Democrat Dick Batchelor, a popular Orange County state representative who was considered a formidable, although underfunded, campaigner.

Fearful that he might be dragged down by voter discontent with Reaganomics or concern

over Social Security, McCollum did not emphasize his party affiliation against Batchelor. He claimed that he voted an independent line.

His main theme was one he took from the 1980 campaign — McCollum as the all-American husband and father (compared to the unmarried Batchelor) who had "restored integrity" to the district. McCollum's superior financial resources enabled him to use media more extensively, and he succeeded in casting Batchelor as a liberal. He won a second term with 59 percent of the vote.

Committees

Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs (9th of 17 Republicans)
Domestic Monetary Policy; Financial Institutions Supervision, Regulation and Insurance; Housing and Community Development; International Trade, Investment and Monetary Policy.

Judiciary (8th of 11 Republicans)
Administrative Law and Governmental Relations; Criminal Justice; Immigration, Refugees and International Law.

Elections**1982 General**

Bill McCollum (R)	69,939	(59%)
Dick Batchelor (D)	49,042	(41%)

1980 General

Bill McCollum (R)	177,603	(56%)
David Best (D)	140,903	(44%)

District Vote For President

	1980		1976
D	51,295 (34%)	D	59,891 (46%)
R	93,796 (62%)	R	68,991 (53%)
I	5,775 (4%)		

Campaign Finance

	Receipts	Receipts from PACs	Expenditures
1982			
McCollum (R)	\$436,316	\$154,222 (35%)	\$327,799
Batchelor (D)	\$189,899	\$64,706 (34%)	\$207,460

1980

McCollum (R)	\$285,228	\$56,700 (20%)	\$278,664
Best (D)	\$182,789	\$45,800 (25%)	\$178,460

Voting Studies

	Presidential Support		Party Unity		Conservative Coalition	
Year	S	O	S	O	S	O
1982	78	17	91	8	93	7
1981	67	28	83	14	85	12

S = Support O = Opposition

Key Votes

Reagan budget proposal (1981)	Y
Legal services reauthorization (1981)	Y
Disapprove sale of AWACs planes to Saudi Arabia (1981)	Y
Index income taxes (1981)	Y
Subsidize home mortgage rates (1982)	Y
Amend Constitution to require balanced budget (1982)	Y
Delete MX funding (1982)	N
Retain existing cap on congressional salaries (1982)	Y
Adopt nuclear freeze (1983)	N

Interest Group Ratings

Year	ADA	ACA	AFL-CIO	CCUS
1982	10	87	10	82
1981	0	86	13	94